

## Message Text

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64

ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07 LAB-04

NSAE-00 SIL-01 DODE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02

AID-05 /044 W

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R 251211Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3931

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

C O N F I D E N T I A L AMMAN 1389

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ELAB, JO

SUBJECT: AAFLI VISIT AND JORDANIAN LABOR DEVELOPMENTS

BEIRUT FOR LABATT MATTSON

1. SUMMARY: OPENING OF NEW JORDANIAN FEDERATION OF  
TRADE UNIONS CLINIC FEB 18 AND HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL  
VISIT TO AMMAN OF AAFLI DEPUTY FOR FIELD ACTIVITIES  
JACK MUTH FEB 15-20 RECEIVED WIDE PUBLICITY IN LOCAL  
MEDIA. IN TALKS WITH MUTH AND EMBASSY, LOCAL LABOR  
LEADERSHIP INDICATED THAT AAFLI PROGRAM IS MAKING  
INROADS INTO LEFTIST LABOR ELEMENTS BUT THAT PRO-  
ISRAELI STATEMENTS BY GEORGE MEANY HAVE ALIENATED  
SOME MEMBERS. LOCAL LEADERSHIP ALSO MADE STRONG  
PITCH FOR BEGINNING AAFLI PROGRAM IN EGYPT.  
END SUMMARY.

2. OPENING IN AMMAN OF FIRST OF FOUR  
JFTU-AAFLI-SPONSERED TRADE UNION CLINICS  
FEB 18 WAS ATTENDED BY WIDE MEDIA PUBLICITY.  
(OTHER THREE PLANNED CLINICS TO BE LOCATED  
IN IRBID, ZARQA, AND ACQABA.) PRIME MINISTER  
RIFAI REPRESENTED KING HUSSEIN AT  
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OPENING CEREMONIES, ENTIRE PROCEEDINGS OF

WHICH WERE FILMED AND SHOWN ON LOCAL TV THAT NIGHT. NEWSPAPERS FOLLOWING DAY TREATED EVENT AS FRONT PAGE NEWS, INCLUDING PICTURES. IMPRESSIVE CEREMONY WAS ATTENDED BY (IN ADDITION TO PM) AMBASSADOR AND NUMEROUS LOCAL DIGNITARIES AND WAS FOLLOWED BY TOUR OF FACILITIES.

3. VISIT TO AMMAN OF AAFLI OFFICIAL JACK MUTH ALSO RATED WIDE MEDIA PUBLICITY. JFTU AND MINISTRY SOCIAL AFFAIRS AND LABOR LAID ON SERIES OF BANQUETS AND MEETINGS AT WHICH MUTH WAS BROUGHT UP TO DATE ON JFTU ACTIVITIES. HE, IN TURN, CLARIFIED AAFLI FINANCIAL ROLE IN PLANNED CLINICS AND POSSIBLE VOCATIONAL TRAINING (DETAILS BY SEPTEL). BOTH JFTU AND MINLABOR EAGER TO HAVE RESIDENT AAFLI REP IN AMMAN TO HELP COORDINATE FUTURE CLINICS, VOCATIONAL TRAINING, AND SEMINARS. IRBID CLINIC WILL BE NEXT TO OPEN, ALTHOUGH ON MUCH SMALLER SCALE THAN AMMAN FACILITY.

4. JFTU PRESIDENT AHED QUINTAR INDICATED HE BELIEVES AAFLI PROGRAM GRADUALLY MAKING INROADS INTO LEFTIST LABOR ELEMENTS, FOR INSTANCE, FOR FIRST TIME LEFTIST PHOSPHATE WORKERS AGREED TO SEND REP TO AAFLI-SPONSORED, HARVARD TRADE UNION SEMINAR CURRENTLY UNDERWAY QUINTAR INDICATED, HOWEVER, THAT PRO-ISRAELI STATEMENTS BY AFL-CIO PRES. MEANY HAVE COMPLICATED JFTU-AAFLI CONNECTION AND THAT COMMUNISTS ARE ACTUALLY DISTRIBUTING MEANY STATEMENTS AMONG UNIONIST.

5. QUINTAR INDICATED THAT MOST HELPFUL IMMEDIATE MOVE VIS-A-VIS JFTU-AAFLI RELATIONS WOULD BE FOR AAFLI TO OPEN RELATIONSHIP WITH EGYPTIAN TRADE UNIONS. SUCH A MOVE WOULD TAKE SOME HEAT OFF JFTU FROM OTHER ARAB TRADE UNION MOVEMENTS. (INCIDENTALLY, A PROPOS RECENT EGYPTIAN TRADE UNION APPROACH FOR AAFLI TIES (CAIRO 1643), FORMER MINISTER OF LABOR ZINNI TOLD EMBOFF THAT EGYPTIAN LABOR MINISTER HAD CONTACTED ZINNI SIX MONTHS AGO WITH REQUEST CONFIDENTIAL

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THAT GOJ APPROACH AAFLI ON BEHALF OF EGYPTIAN TRADE UNIONS. HOWEVER, PM RIFAI DECLINED, SAYING EGYPTIANS SHOULD MAKE APPROACH ON THEIR OWN.)

6. COMMENT: AAFLI IS OFF TO A FLYING START, WITH BLUE RIBBON TREATMENT BY GOJ FOR OPENING OF AMMAN CLINIC. EMBASSY BELIEVES IT IMPORTANT TO

CAPITALIZE ON FAVORABLE IMPACT BY NOW MOVING  
QUICKLY TO CONTINUE AAFLI VISIBILITY AND PRO-  
GRAM MOMENTUM. WE HOPE DEPARTMENT CAN SUPPORT  
AAFLI PROGRAM FOR COMING YEAR, INCLUDING EVENTUAL  
PRESENCE OF PERMANENT OR QUASI-PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE.  
THE OTHER USEFUL MOVE FROM OUR PERSPECTIVE  
IN JORDAN WOULD BE TO ENCOURAGE FORMATION SIMI-  
LAR AAFLI-TRADE UNION TIES IN EGYPT.  
PICKERING

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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